

**Scenic Resource Management Classification**

## INTRODUCTION

Within the NH-AL, three areas have been identified as “Scenic Resource Management Areas”

**Area 15:** Manitowish River

**Area 16:** Rustic Road

The scenic resources management classification is applied to lands with outstanding scenic attractions, scenic lakes, rivers and streams with high value for water-based recreation. This classification may be applied to scenic highways, roads, trails or vistas for the specific use of enjoying the scenery (WDNR 2001).

The management objective of a scenic resources management area is to protect, maintain, and enhance for long-term public enjoyment lands or waters having unique aesthetic qualities or outstanding scenic beauty. Development within the scenic resource management areas will be located and designed to be harmonious with the surrounding landscape and have minimal negative impact upon its scenic values (WDNR 2001).

Vegetation management approaches appropriate for use within scenic resource management areas may vary from passive management to active management, depending upon the long-term scenic management objective for the area and the site’s ecological capability, vegetation types, and site conditions. Examples of potential vegetation management activities that may be prescribed by the master plan include timber harvesting, planting, herbicide application, mowing, burning, flooding, installation of fish habitat improvement devices, road construction, and erosion control. Additional restoration activities potentially include cutting trees and shrubs to maintain or create scenic vistas, underplanting or replanting (preferably native trees and shrubs) for visual variety or to speed conversion to a scenically desirable forest type and removal of invasive species.

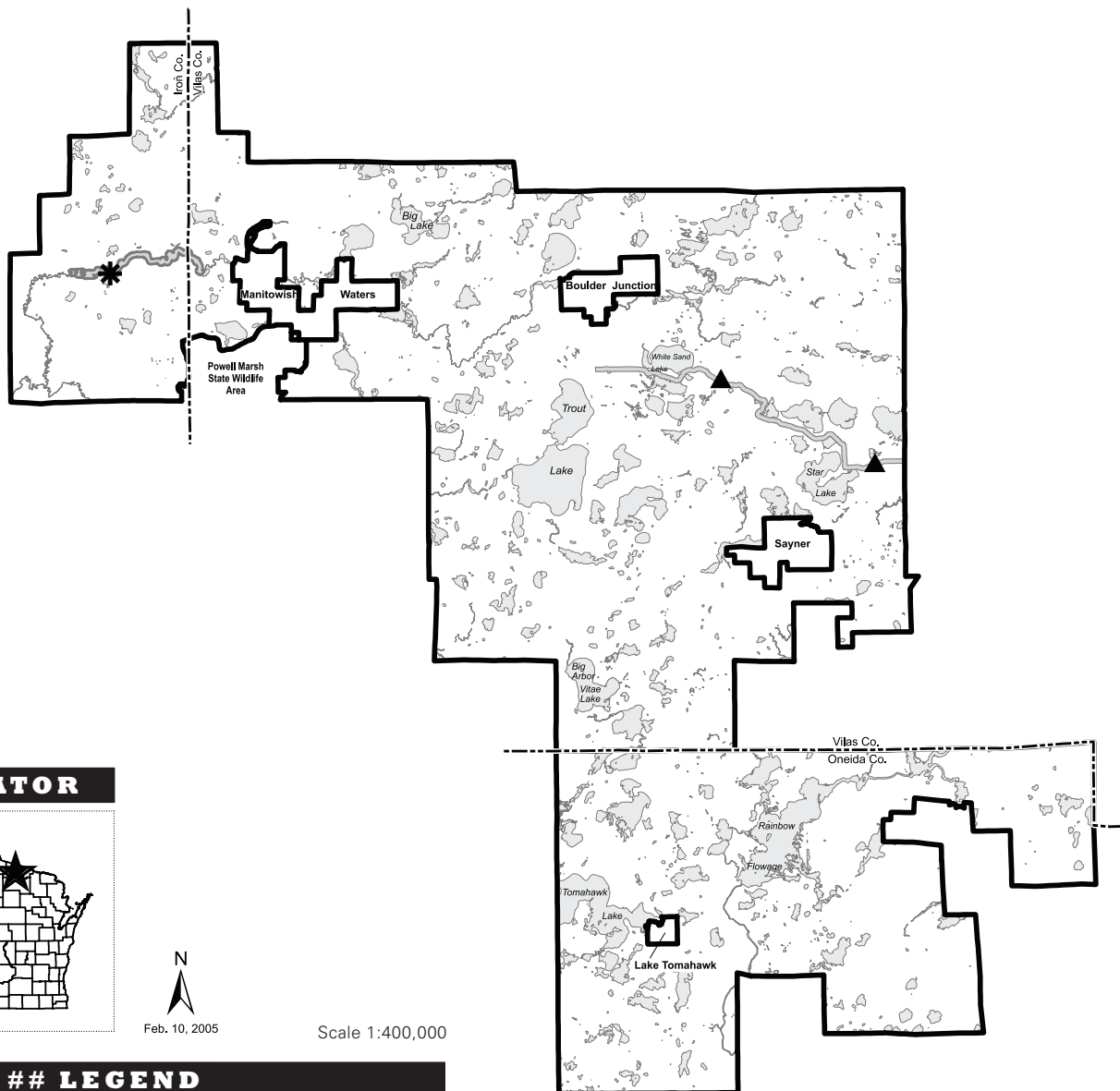


## Scenic Resource Management Classification

INTRODUCTION

AREAS  
15-16

## MAP 41: SCENIC MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION AREAS



## MAP ## LEGEND

- State Forest Project Boundary
- Scenic Management Classification Areas**
  - \* Area 15. Maniowish River
  - ▲ Area 16. Rustic Road
- Other State Forest Management Areas
- - - County Boundary
- Open Water

The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access.

**AREA  
15****Scenic Resource Management Classification****MANITOWISH RIVER**

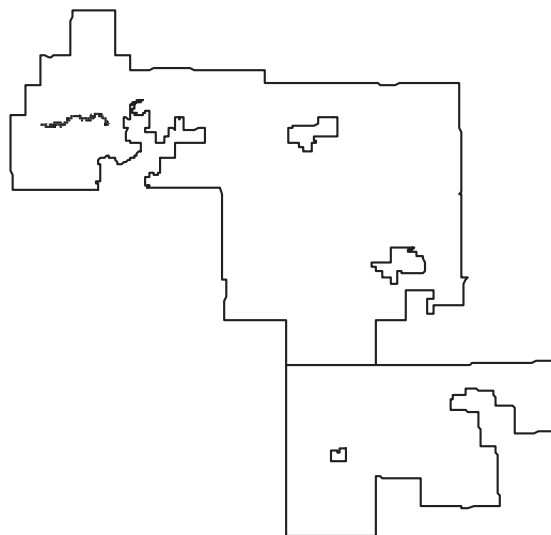
The scenic management area includes the stretch of the Manitowish River corridor from Benson Lake to State Highway 47. The downstream end of the scenic area abuts the Manitowish River Wild Resources Area. The scenic area corridor stretches for 300 feet each side of the river. The topography is mostly level to gently rolling with excessively drained, sandy soils. The river corridor was designated a scenic resource area in the 1982 Master Plan.

Historically the river was a well traveled transportation route and was used extensively for the logging trade at the turn of the century. At European settlement the river was flanked with a mix of wetland forest and high ground red and white pine stands. Presently, the area has a natural look and its undeveloped shore adds to the beauty of the riverway.

This area is classified a Type 3 Recreational use setting.

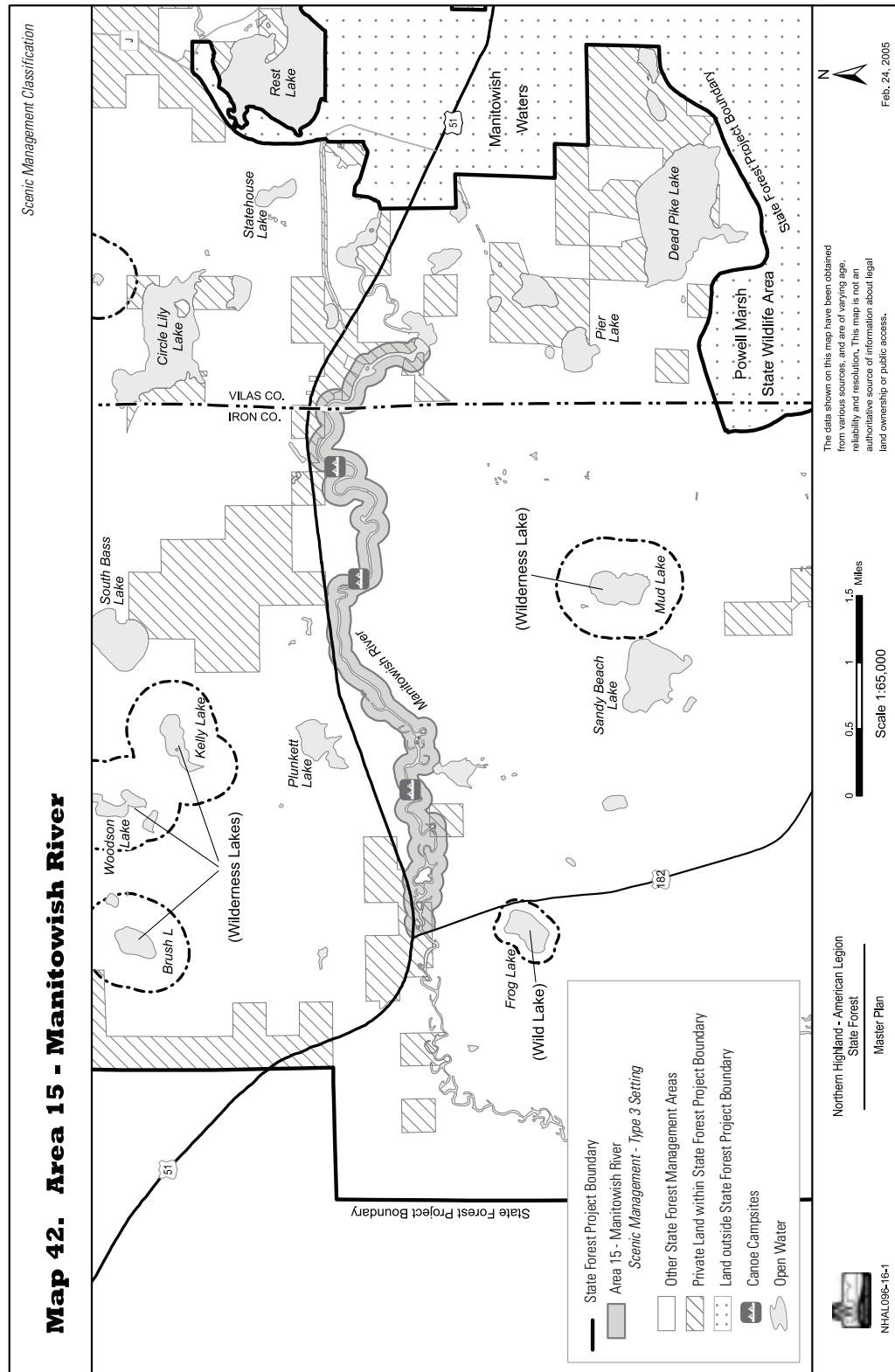
**AREA 15 SUMMARY**

- ▲ This area is approximately 759 acres in size with 524 acres in state ownership.
- ▲ Management to protect, maintain and enhance aesthetic qualities and outstanding recreational opportunities of the Manitowish riverway.
- ▲ Type 3 Recreation Setting

**AREA 15 LOCATOR MAP**

## Scenic Resource Management Classification

MANITOWISH RIVER

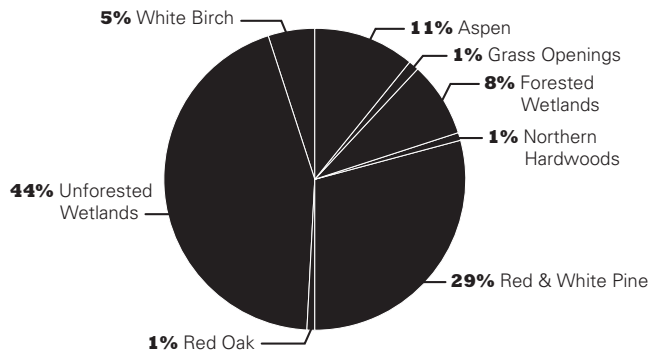
AREA  
15

**AREA  
15****Scenic Resource Management Classification****MANITOWISH RIVER****LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM  
OBJECTIVES (100 TO 50 TO YEARS)**

- Maintain and enhance the natural appearing, undeveloped, and highly scenic Manitowish River corridor between Benson Lake to State Highway 47.
- Provide opportunities for high quality, non-motorized recreation and education in a generally undeveloped river setting. Maintain an undeveloped shoreline, except for primitive canoe campsites that are harmonious with the surrounding landscape and have minimal negative impact upon scenic values.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
PRESCRIPTIONS**

- Maintain the corridor in a natural appearing condition. Manage for large longer-lived trees such as red and white pine on suitable sites. If needed, under-plant to increase stocking levels of desirable species. Retain white cedar. Leave abundant snags, dead-downed trees, and downed trees in the river.
- When cutting timber or performing other management activities, modify the standard management prescriptions to minimize to the degree practicable the visibility of management activities from the river.
- Generally, leave natural disturbances to regenerate naturally. Consider salvage when the visual qualities along the river can be enhanced and erosion potential can be mitigated. Plant following salvage if the desired natural regeneration would not occur.
- Remove or control invasive species.
- Locate any new canoe campsites where they will be harmonious with the landscape. Remove hazard trees from campsites. Plant native trees and shrubs as need for shade and screening.
- Other management activities that may be conducted as needed include timber harvesting (except for clear-cutting not related to salvage) other tree cutting, passive forest management, tree and shrub planting, herbicide application, burning, installation of fish habitat improvement devices, trail or road construction, erosion control, campsite maintenance and construction, and the removal of hazard trees in public use areas.

**AREA 15 CURRENT LAND COVER**



**Scenic Resource Management Classification**

MANITOWISH RIVER

**AREA  
15**

**AREA  
16****Scenic Resource Management Classification****RUSTIC ROAD**

There is one rustic road designated within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. This road, also known as Rustic Road 60, follows the eastern portion of County Highway K located in Vilas County in the northeastern section of the forest between County Highway N and County Highway M. An additional 2 miles of County Highway K extending to the eastern edge of the NH-AL forest boundary will also be included and managed as a scenic resource. The rustic road is approximately 12 miles in length and 200 feet on each side of the road beginning at the County Highway Right-of-Way. The County Highway Right-of-Way is 33 feet on each side from the center of the road. The road right-of-way is managed by Vilas County, not the Department.

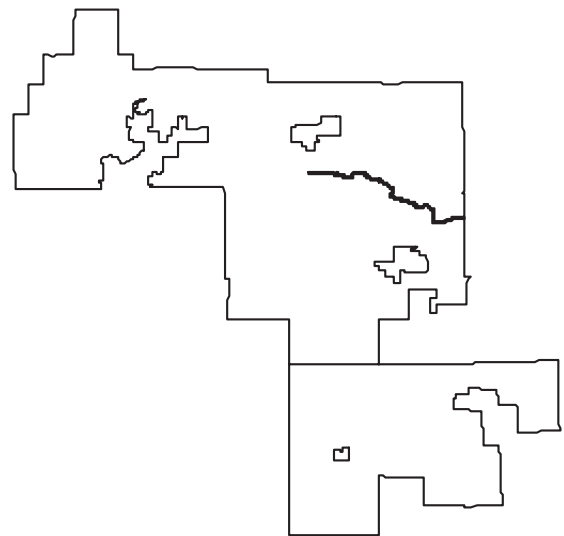
The topography is mostly level to gently rolling. The Rustic Road is of special importance because it travels through heavily forested areas, near hiking trails, and past an old logging camp. It supports a high traffic load and offers travelers scenic vistas of numerous lakes and forests. (DOT 2002).

According to State Statute 83.42 the purpose of a rustic road is "...to create and preserve rustic and scenic roads for vehicular, bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, and pedestrian travel in unhurried, quiet and leisurely enjoyment; to protect and preserve recreational driving, culture, beauty, trees, vegetation and wildlife.

This area is classified as a Type 3 Recreation Setting.

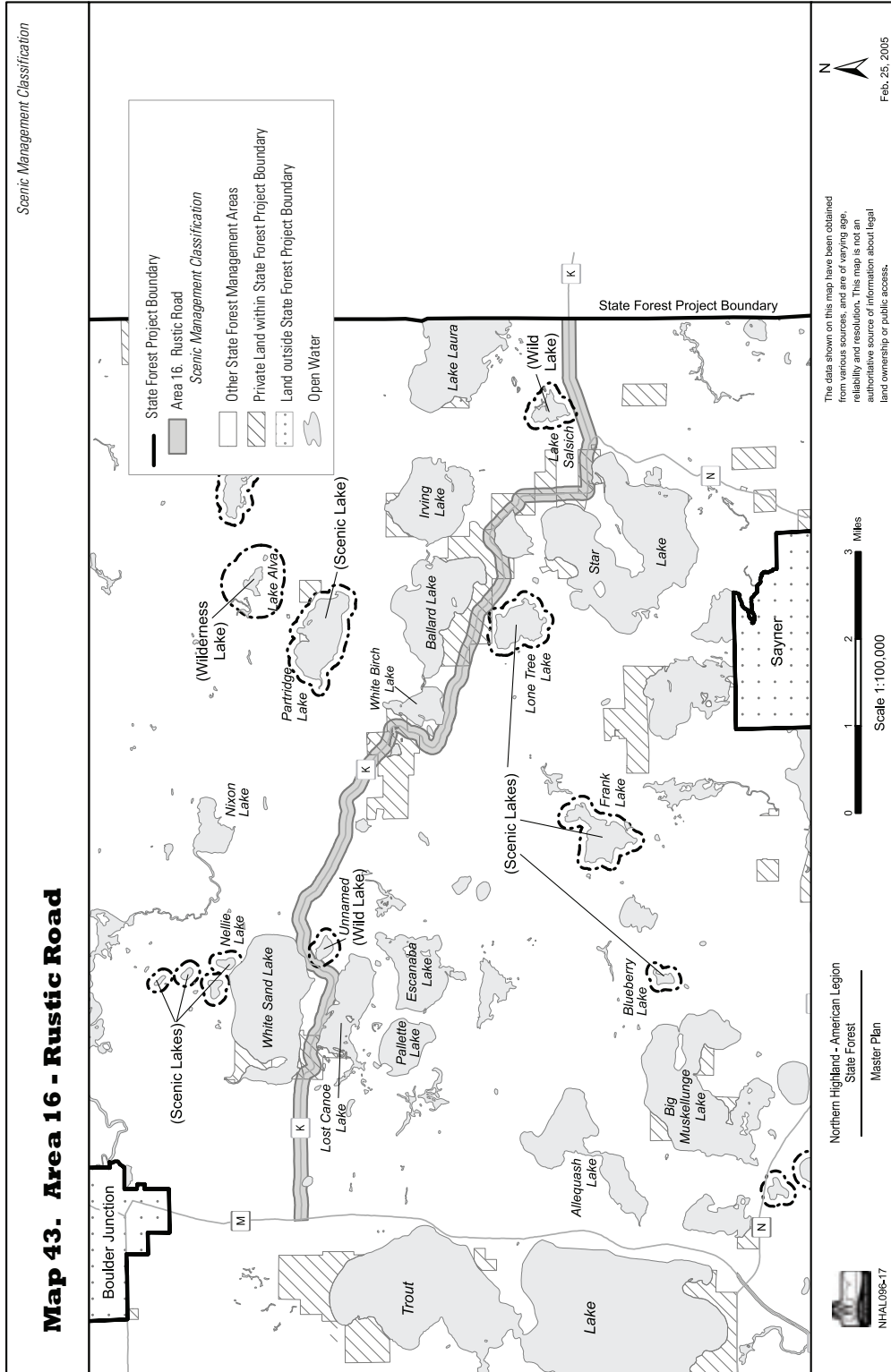
**AREA 16 SUMMARY**

- ▲ Follows Rustic Road #60, along County Highway K.
- ▲ This area is approximately 12 miles in length and 400 feet wide for a total of 567 acres.
- ▲ Manage to protect and enhance the scenic beauty of the Rustic Road corridor.

**AREA 16 LOCATOR MAP**

## Scenic Resource Management Classification

RUSTIC ROAD

AREA  
16



**AREA  
16****Scenic Resource Management Classification****RUSTIC ROAD****LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES (100 YEAR)**

- In cooperation with Vilas County, protect and enhance the aesthetic and scenic beauty of the rustic road corridor.
- Maintain a mix of forest types but generally favor longer-lived species of red and white pines or other long-lived tree species.

**SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES (50 YEAR)**

- Maintain the Department managed lands along the road corridor in a natural appearing condition.
- Maintain a healthy, forested condition and a broad mix of forest types, with an emphasis on longer-lived tree species. In areas of predominantly shorter-lived, even-aged tree species, convert to longer-lived species as quickly as possible while retaining the high visual quality of the area.
- Maintain or create scenic vistas that enhance the visual variety and quality of the landscape.
- Eliminate visual impacts and safety concerns created by dead or declining trees and broken or leaning trees.
- Minimize the visual and audible impacts of management activities, including impacts from slash, forest roads, and log landings.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
PRESCRIPTIONS**

The General Timber Type Management Prescriptions and all of their associated management activities (described at the beginning of the Land Management Section) apply, except as limited by the prescriptions below:

- Manage for large longer-lived trees such as red and white pine on suitable sites. If needed, under-plant to increase stocking levels of desirable species. Restoration activities are allowed to promote long-lived species and promote natural appearing forest stands. Underplant native species for visual variety.
- Within 50 feet of the County Highway Right-of-Way:
  1. When harvesting timber or performing other management activities, to the degree possible, minimize disturbances, except as necessary to create or maintain scenic vistas.
  2. Remove dead, declining or short-lived species near maturity as well as invasive species.
  3. Eliminate slash.
- Beyond 50 feet of the County Highway Right-of-Way:
  1. To the degree practicable, modify the standard forest management prescriptions to minimize the visibility of management and development activities as viewed from the road.
  2. Reduce slash not screened from view from road to a maximum height of 24 inches.
- Landings for forest products are not permitted within this management area.
- Design forest access roads to have the minimal visual impact.
- Time management activities so they coincide with lower levels of recreational use periods whenever possible.
- Identify, maintain or create key scenic vistas along the road corridor as appropriate.



One area has been identified as a  
“Wild Resource Management Area”

**Area 17:** Manitowish Wild Resource Area

The Manitowish River Wilderness is classified as a Wild Resources Management Area. The Wild Resource management classification is typically applied to undeveloped areas that have the potential to be restored to a substantially wild condition. These locations are managed to provide land and water areas where natural ecological processes predominate and evidence of human activities is low.

Any management activities conducted within Wild Resource Areas are performed in a manner that attempts to minimize the perception of human activity. Typically there are little or no visible resource management activities and the facility development is limited to primitive recreational uses. Road construction to support management and restoration activities within a wild resource area are limited to the degree possible and are generally abandoned after completion of the management activity. Also, all pre-existing structures (i.e., roads, buildings, bridges, and dams) will be removed if they are not specifically identified in this master plan. Structures with

historical value are an exception and may be maintained within the wild resource area. Action is taken to control invasive species that threaten the Area’s wildland character or outstanding natural values. Fire is suppressed in wild resource areas as much as possible and timber salvage after a natural disturbance is not allowed.

Management activities within the Wild Resource Areas are generally authorized for the purpose of protecting or enhancing the outstanding natural or aesthetic values and restoring the Area’s wild character. Planting native vegetation and limited vegetation cutting. These include: thinning of residual tree plantations to create a more natural appearing forest condition, the removal of trees considered to be a hazard to the public or when associated with a recreational facility, and the removal of invasive species may be conducted within a Wild Resource Area. However, other types of vegetation management or timber harvesting activities are not allowed.

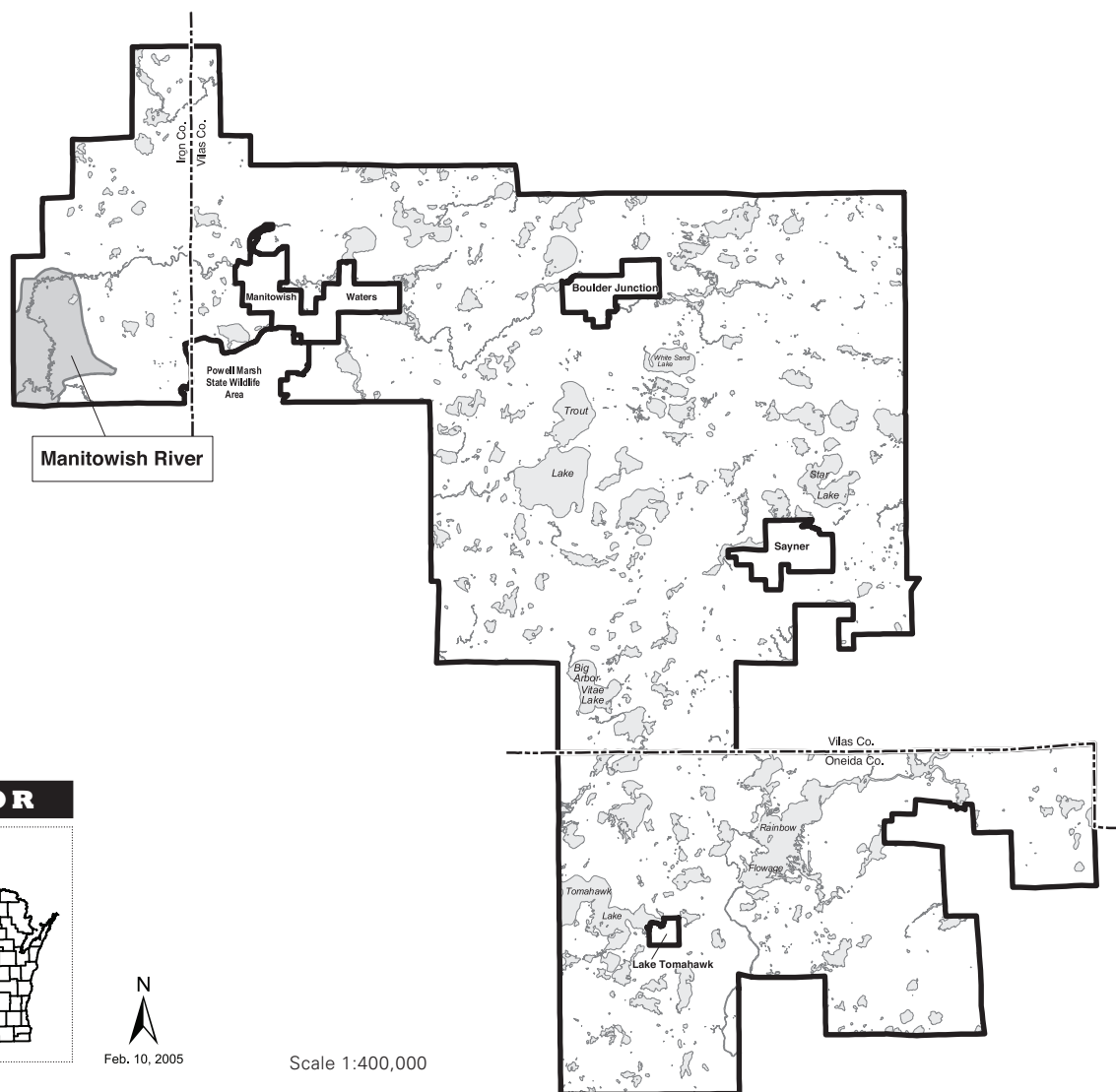


## Wild Resource Management Classification

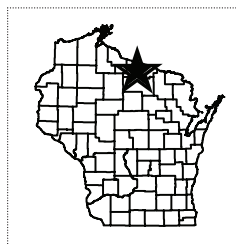
## INTRODUCTION

AREA  
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## MAP 44: WILD RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION AREAS



## LOCATOR



Feb. 10, 2005

Scale 1:400,000

## MAP 44 LEGEND

— State Forest Project Boundary

## Wild Resource Management Classification Area

Area 17. Manitowish River

Other State Forest Management Areas

--- County Boundary

Open Water

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**AREA  
17****Wild Resource Management Classification****MANITOWISH RIVER WILDERNESS**

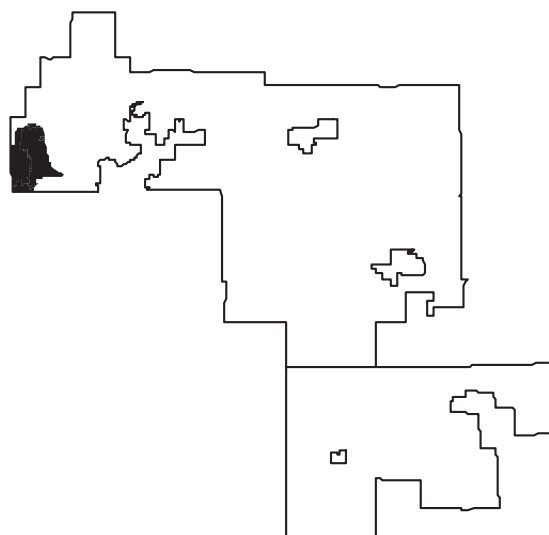
The Manitowish River flows through the heart of this 6,265 acre area. The landscape of the Manitowish River Wilderness Area is mostly flat and wet, supporting a mosaic of wetland and upland habitats. The wetlands flow from the Winegar Moraines south through the Manitowish Peatlands, and then into adjacent lands such as the Turtle-Flambeau Scenic Waters Area, Lac du Flambeau Reservation, and the Chequamegon Unit of the National Forest. The soils are mostly very poorly drained organic peat with some areas of sands or loamy sands.

The current landscape is a mosaic of wetland and upland habitats. The wetlands are mostly open bog with little woody growth, or are covered by wetland shrubs, although areas of black spruce and tamarack do occur. The uplands contain aspen and red and white pine stands with some mixed hardwoods. Some upland islands contain old growth red and white pine stands. The area contains one 54 acre red pine plantation of 1967 origin.

Historically, both fire and floods with the water table rising in wet years and dropping in drought years, were the major influences on the vegetation. Upland stand-replacing fires had cycles every 50-200 years, but some trees survived over 300 years. These conditions created a forest of red/white pine with aspen and white birch. Fires also maintained the open treeless bog habitat. Bog, poor fen, and tamarack forest are the historical wetland vegetation, and are represented today much as they probably were before European settlement.

**AREA 17 SUMMARY**

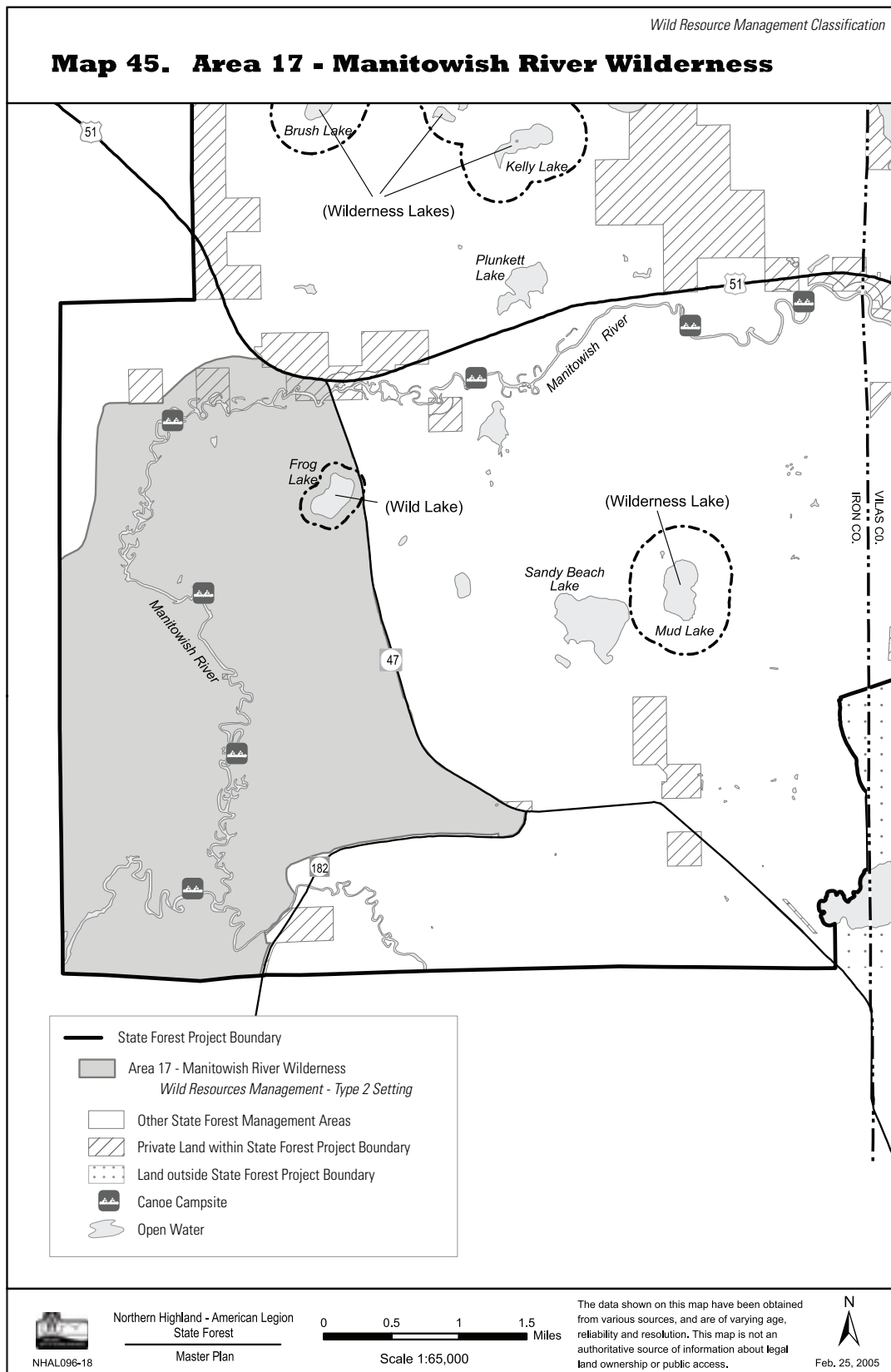
- ▲ This area is approximately 6,265 acres in size with 5,939 acres in state ownership.
- ▲ Opportunity to maintain the high quality open sedge meadow, bog, shrub and forested wetland system for ecological, water quality and habitat values.
- ▲ Conservation of wetland habitats for many rare species.
- ▲ Passive management throughout this area, allowing most natural forces to determine the future composition of wetland and upland habitats.

**AREA 17 LOCATOR MAP**



## Wild Resource Management Classification

## MANITOWISH RIVER WILDERNESS

AREA  
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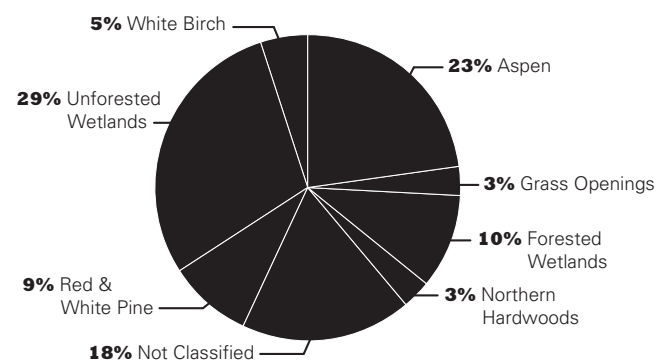
**AREA  
17****Wild Resource Management Classification****MANITOWISH RIVER WILDERNESS****LONG AND SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES  
(100 AND 50 YEAR)**

- Through passive management, develop and maintain a red pine and white pine forest with gradual transition (>100 years) to maple/ hemlock forest, swamp conifer and lowland brush with old-growth characteristics.
- Protect Frog Lake, an ultrasoft water lake, for its biotic community and scenic values.
- Provide remote, quiet, non-motorized recreation in a setting with limited access and low signs of human activity. Provide primitive canoe camping opportunities and limited trail access into the area.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
PRESCRIPTIONS**

Only the management activities outlined below may be conducted within this management area.

- Permit natural processes to predominate. Passively manage the entire management area, except to remove invasive species, restore forest stands to a natural appearing forest, particularly restoring pine plantations, and restore roads to a natural condition, or maintain designated trails and canoe campsites. Salvage activities following a natural disturbance is not allowed.
- Monitor insect and disease outbreaks when they occur and take action only when there is a strong threat to forests outside of the management area.
- Actively suppress forest fires that threaten areas outside of the management area using the minimum actions required. Restore any soil disturbed to its original topography. Develop a wild fire response plan to minimize adverse soil disturbance, while assuring public safety.
- Conduct regular reconnaissance monitoring and explore opportunities for additional research regarding forest composition and change within the Wild Resource Area.
- Develop a plan to monitor the forest composition and rare species populations to learn more about forest regeneration and its affects on rare plant and animal populations.
- Maintain a primitive trail for walk-in access to Frog Lake's north shore, and develop a four car parking area and install a pedestrian only access fence at the trailhead on Highway 47.
- Level the berm and restore pine forest vegetation on the former logging road west of the snowmobile trail.

**AREA 17 CURRENT LAND COVER**

- Maintain several primitive canoe campsites along the Manitowish River. Remove the picnic tables located at these sites due to the new standards for campsites located in wild resource areas.
- Restrict all motor vehicle access to the area, except to respond to health and safety or other emergencies.
- One wilderness lake, Frog Lake, lie in this management area. The prescribed passive management in this area is fully compatible with the management requirements for a wilderness lake. Manage frog lake consistent wit the wilderness lakes designation. See the wilderness lakes management zone section for information on the non-vegetative management requirements within the wilderness lake zone.

**STATE NATURAL AREA DESIGNATION**

See the State Natural Area discussion in the Appendix for detailed information.

The Manitowish River Wilderness Area contains a proposed 1,248 acre State Natural Area designation for Frog Lake and Pines. See the State Natural Areas discussion and map for additional information.

## Wild Resource Management Classification

## MANITOWISH RIVER WILDERNESS

AREA  
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**Table 2.15 Area 17- Manitowish River Wilderness, Current and desired future conditions for community types in acres and percent of total.**

Community type	Current		Predicted 50-year Condition*	
	% of Total Area	Acres	% of Total Area	Acres
Aspen	1,386	23%	400	7%
Grass openings	153	3%	0	0%
Forested Wetlands	613	10%	370	7%
Northern hardwoods	170	3%	1,520	25%
Not Classified	1,061	18%	1,039	17%
Red & White pine	514	9%	510	9%
Unforested wetlands	1,739	29%	2,000	33%
White birch	303	5%	100	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,939</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,939</b>	<b>100%</b>

*The table shows estimated changes in vegetation that are predicted to naturally occur under passive management in the absence of a significant natural disturbance. The increase and decrease of forested and unforested wetlands is due to natural succession or natural catastrophes. The Not Classified category includes river frontage, lake zones and recent acquisitions.*

*\* Predicted 50-year Condition is an estimate of the forest covertime in 50 years and does not necessarily reflect the long-term objectives of the Area.*

